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STATINTL

CIA Is Defended By Senator Dodd Against Charges

The Central Intelligence Agency was defended today by Senator Dodd, Democrat of Connecticut, against "wild and sensational" charges he said have been made against it.

In a speech prepared for the Senate, Senator Dodd said, "baiting the CIA almost seems to have achieved the stature of a popular national pastime."

He called the CIA probably one of the most supervised agencies in Government.

The CIA should not be immune from criticism, the Senator said, but those who criticize it should remember that there is a special bureau of the Soviet Secret Police whose task it is to discredit the agency.

"We cannot compete with communism if we confine ourselves to orthodox diplomacy and intelligence collection," the Senator said.

"It seems to me that what some members of Congress have been complaining about in advocating a joint congressional watchdog committee is that they have been unaware of certain activities conducted by CIA," Senator Dodd said. "The members of Congress are all trustworthy but a secret ceases to be a secret when it is shared by more than 500 people."

Such a proposal casts doubt on the competence of the members of the House and Senate who now serve on committees overseeing the CIA, he added.